

PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING  
**LONG-TERM CARE COUNCIL**  
  
EST. 2015

## Meeting Minutes

LTCC Meeting date: April 13, 2023

Start & End Time: 10:00am – 11:30am

Location/Format: Hybrid in-person and WebEx Meeting w/ Dial-In Option; PA Office of Administration, Health and Human Services Delivery Center, 2525 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

## Council Members in Attendance

Maria Collett, Senator (*Designee*: Tom Holroyd)

Mike Humphreys, Acting Insurance Commissioner (*Designee*: Katie Meritt) \*

Jason Kavulich, Acting Secretary of Aging

Michell Carroll, Secretary of Transportation (*Designee*: Daniele Spila) \*

Eric Beittel, Long-Term Care Insurance representative

Marck Schindler, Acting Adjutant General (*Designee*: Maureen Weigl) \*

Dr. Debra Bogen, Acting Secretary of Health

Dr. Val Arkoosh, Acting Secretary of Human Services (*Designee*: Jennifer Hale) \*

Mark Baylis, State Veterans Commission Designee

Karen Buck, Consumer Advocacy representative

Dr. Angela M. Reynolds, Caregiver representative

Kathy Cubit, Caregiver representative

Dr. David A. Nace, LTSS Physician representative

Teresa Osborne, Consumer Advocacy representative

Nicole M. Anders, Adult Day Center representative

Missy Shupe, LTSS Nurse representative

Michael Sokoloski, Homecare representative

Kathleen Gillespie, Area Agency on Aging representative

Matthew W. Yarnell, Consumer Advocacy representative

Margie Zelenak, Assisted Living/Personal Care Home representative

Eshie Zinman, Consumer Advocacy representative

Janice Cameron, PA Council on Aging representative

\*Attended on member's behalf

## Not In Attendance

Michell Brooks, Senator (*Designee*: Joan Bradbury)

Robin Wiessmann, Executive Director, PA Housing Finance Agency (*Designee*: Danielle Rudy)

Shona Eakin, LTSS Consumer

Mark J. Gusek, LC Managed Care representative

Jeff Eggleston, County Commissioners Association of PA representative

Megan Stedjan, Nonprofit Skilled Nursing Facility representative

Adrienne Peters-Sipes, Elder Law Section representative

Samela Hudson-Brewton, Senior Community representative  
Dr. Nancy Hodgson, Academic Research representative  
Shane Nugent, For-Profit Skilled Nursing Facility representative  
Vini Portzline, LTSS Consumer  
Dr. Kimberly VanHaitsma, Academic Research representative

## Discussion Items and Summary

### Welcome & Approval of Meeting Minutes

Deputy Secretary Steven Horner opened the meeting with a welcome to members and attendees and made the following announcements:

- LTCC Membership updates are as follows:
  - Deputy Secretary expressed his appreciation and thanked Executive Director, Glenda Ebersole and Kevin Hancock for their role in the Department of aging and work with the LTCC
  - Congratulate Kevin

### Commonwealth Updates

#### PA Department of Human Services

##### **Dr. Val Arkoosh, Acting Secretary**

- Dr. Arkoosh introduced herself and shared her years of experience and work at the intersection of public health and policy
- Emergency funding for SNAP benefits ending soon
  - Additionally, while Social Security benefits account for adjustments in the cost of living, the SNAP program has no such adjustments
  - Therefore, some seniors are being priced out of SNAP benefits with increases in their social security benefit (≈250,000 older adults will see a reduction in their benefits)
- Emergency funding for Medicaid ending soon
  - All individuals currently enrolled in Medicaid will need to redetermine their eligibility
  - If someone is no longer eligible for Medicaid, they will be referred to Pennie to shop through the health insurance marketplace
  - Committee members should use their personal and professional networks to promote DHS' plans to redetermine Medicaid eligibility for all Medicaid enrollees

**Q:** If it is not already, PAMEDI should be lifted as a resource within the communication toolkit that the Department of Human Services is using to contact every Medicaid enrollee. The other resources provided are not necessarily what this population will need, while PAMEDI is specifically created for older adults.

**A:** We will be sure to include PAMEDI in our toolkit if we have not already done so.

**Jen Hale, Director Bureau of Policy and Regulator Management Office of Long-Term Living**

- Department released Request for Information (ROI) for Community Health Choices (CHC) program on 03/06/2023
  - Gathering stakeholder feedback on statement of work for upcoming procurement before officially issuing request for application for vendors to bid on program participation
  - Opportunities to strengthen the program in the future
- CHC Over waivers, CMS Approval of waiver amendments
  - Amendment to benefit counseling service definition to remove the requirement that participants must access the office of vocational rehabilitation services before accessing the benefits counseling service that is available in the waiver
  - Technical Edit in response to CARES Act to allow nurse practitioners and physicians assistants, in addition to physicians, prescribe and order home health aide services, nursing services, OT/PT, and speech and language therapy services
- Unwinding Activities – since March 2020, OLTL has been operating under Appendix K (emergency response), effective May 11, OLTL discontinuing emergency flexibilities and returning to normal waiver operations

## PA Department of Aging (PDA)

**Steven Horner, Deputy Secretary**

- SNAP and Medicaid benefits
  - PDA has created and distributed a 1-page fact sheet on the departments plan to assist older adults navigate the new SNAP criteria
  - PDA has created and distributed a 1-page fact sheet on the departments plan to fill gaps for individuals not eligible for Medicaid renewal and how to find resources through agency collaboration
- Food Insecurity in PA:
  - PDA has created a “hot map” that identified food banks within the state and their locale and shared how home & community-based partners can greatly help
- Helpvul
  - Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) that experience high volume of financial exploitation will be prioritized to receive the Helpvul system first
- Current Legislation
  - Acting Secretary Kavulich met with House Appropriations committee to discuss the governors proposed budget
    - Highlighted increased budget for older adults
    - Encouraged legislative body to accept these changes to better the lives of older adults across the commonwealth
- Current communication efforts

- PAMEDI – volunteer recruitment campaign in early summer with pool enrollment campaign in early fall
- PA Link to Aging and Disability Resource Center – launching campaign in the fall with an emphasis on vaccines (COVID, Flu)
- Ad Campaign – launching in early 2024 to recruit providers for Domiciliary Care (Dom Care)
- Program Areas
  - Clearfield Area Agency on Aging pilot - developing a mobile app to recruit and train workers, hire direct care workers, and AAA staff to assign care workers
  - Erie Area Agency on Aging Pilot – developing a work readiness program for high schoolers to prepare for health care career with direct care exploration

**Q:** Where is the redetermination factsheet being shared? Residents + Families in nursing facilities should have access.

**A:** Posted on our website and wherever that is most accessible for older adults in PA.

**Q:** Has the department clarified its stance on guardianship and what is being done?

**A:** The Secretary is familiar with how sensitive this topic is, and we have plans to reevaluate this process and work with the courts and judicial system to investigate.

**Q:** Will there be other hot maps for soup kitchens and food pantries, like the hot map for food banks?

**A:** Yes, if that is something the council think would be helpful that is something we can put together

**Kevin Hancock, Special Advisor to the Secretary**

- Master Plan on Aging Presentation
  - Overview: state-led strategic planning resource that can help states transform the infrastructure and coordination of services for their older adult and disability populations
  - Pennsylvania has a rapidly growing older adult population
  - Core Tenants
    - Transparency and inclusion
    - Diversity, equity, and inclusion in all phases of development
    - Person-centered planning
    - Living document that will evolve through the 10-year span of the plan
    - Reframe how we think about, talk about and value older adults and people with disabilities
  - Gathering input will require a large stakeholder engagement process led by the PDA
  - Post publication monitoring will continue after the MPA is put in place
  - 10-Month Timeline
    - We hope MPA will be complete by Governors next budget address (February 2024)
- Committee engagement will be vital in ensuring the stakeholder engagement portion of the Master Plan is successful

**Q:** Does the PDA feel that we need a 1-pager distinguishing what is federally required in a 4-year state plan vs the 10-year Master Plan?

**A:** The department is formally committing to a 1-pager to differentiate these two plans

**Q:** Should we create a motion to write a letter to the governor expressing support for an Executive Order?

**A:** Yes, from the PDA and general consensus from group

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at

The next LTCC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2023.